Index Review Committee

2358. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when Government last appointed the Index Review Committee comprising prominent economists, representative of CSO, employers and trade unions;

(b) whether the Prime Minister in the meeting of central trade unions on August 19, 2006 assured them to set up an Index Review Committee; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Government last constituted Index Review Committee comprising economists, representatives of CSO, employers and trade unions under the Chairmanship of Professor Nilakantha Rath in May 1977.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has recently constituted on 17.11.2006, an Index Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor G.K. Chadha comprising two representatives each from all Central Trade Unions and all Employers' Organisation besides one representative each from Department of Economic Affairs, Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Central Statistical Organisation, State Governments of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu with Director General, Labour Bureau as member Secretary.

Low wages in the country

2359. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite more and more investment in Asia (including India) and Pacific Zone, unemployment is increasing in our country;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 100 million labourers earn less than two dollars a day and 1/3rd of them are compelled to work for less

than a dollar a day; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government are contemplating to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial National Sample Surveys carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Last such survey, for which results have been published, relates to the year 2004-05. As per these surveys unemployment rate in India has marginally gone up from 2.2 per cent in 1999-2000 to 2.3 per cent during 2004-05.

(b) Yes, Madam. This is because of their engagement in low productivity jobs.

(c) The approach to Tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan has laid emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors, which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints, which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention has been paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities, which have a large employment potential.

Law for unorganised sector

2360. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for bringing about a comprehensive law for the unorganized sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is considering enactment of a legislation and formulation of Social Security Scheme for workers in the unorganized